

[Mrs. O. C. Bell]

[?]

Form A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Cecile Larson ADDRESS 430 So. 17th

DATE Sept 27, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant. Mrs. O.C. Bell—931 D.
2. Date and time of interview. Sept. 27, 1938—9 til 12.
3. Place of interview. 931 D.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

Miss Julia Young, 1719 L Street.

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Large house, filled with lovely furniture tho old, antiques, beautiful pictures, ancient pictures, hand drawn pictures, what nots, electric lamps etc. Neat yard.

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FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Cecile Larson ADDRESS 430 So. 17

DATE Sept. 27, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. O. C. Bell, 931 D. St, Lincoln.

1. Ancestry
2. Place and date of birth. New York State, Oct. 25, 1854.
3. Family. Maiden name Polley
4. Place lived in, with dates. Chagrin Falls Ohio from 3 years until coming to Nebr. in 1774.
5. Education, with dates. High school in Ohio and a short time in Lincoln.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Married in 1774. Did drawing—crayon pictures.
7. Special skills and interests. Fancy work—crocheting—quilt making
8. Community and religious activities. Active in First Christian Church most of her life.
9. Description of informant. Very nice looking, energetic with full use of all faculties, sight, hearing mind and has all of her own teeth yet at 84.

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FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Cecile Larson ADDRESS 430 So. 17

DATE Sept. 27, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS Mrs. O. C. Bell 931 D.

My father was in the dry goods business for 20 years in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He became ill and came to Lincoln to visit his sister and benefit his health. He became impressed with

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the country and came back to Ohio, sold out and came back here and bo't land where Raymond now is. He felt that he was moving us to a wilderness and began buying the things we tho't we couldn't get in Nebr. Father told us that we could buy anything we needed in Lincoln and it wasn't very bad for the size of it. That fall corn was so cheap that people decided to use it for fuel and it was bro't to Lincoln and placed in open bins on [C?] st. After my marriage I lived at 12th [& M?]. There were board side walks but the rats became so thick on account of the corn that I was afraid to leave the house at night—you had to kick them out of your way. My husband was a Grand Army man enlisted at 16—had to lie about his age—then when he got the pension had to prove his age. Still we plowed and sowed and planted, tried to do our level best, 'Gainst hot winds cyclones and hailstorms and every other dog gone pest. Year by year we toiled and labored, til we'd almost broke our backs "Half a crop" or "total failure, scarce enough to pay the tax. So we're going back to "Homeland and we're going back to stay, Where they always have a plenty, wheat and corn and oats and hay. Wagon loads of fruit and "Tators" all you wish on every hand So we thank you now most kindly, we want no more Nebraska land.

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The Homesteaders Lament

Sung to the tune of "Is not this the land of Beulah. By S. S. [Warren?]

Song given to me by Mrs. O. C. Bell. When we left our home back yonder we had all that mortal needs Horses, cows and tools abundant, household goods and gardens seeds, Covered Wagon full to bursting, Bob and Betty full of glee, Going West to take a homestead, happy kiddies, Kate and me. Soon we landed in Nebraska where they had much land to spare, But most ever since we've been here, we've been mad enough to swear, First we built for as a "sod house" and we tried to raise some trees, But the land was full of "Coyotes and our sod house full of fleas.